

How Do Teens Get a License in Delaware?



**Through the
Graduated Driver Licensing law.**

Anyone under age 18 who wants to get a driver's license in Delaware must follow the Graduated Driver Licensing law (GDL). This system was created to give teens more driving practice and to help them develop safe driving habits.



DRIVE SMART. ARRIVE ALIVE 

Preparing Teens for a Lifetime of Safe Driving

The GDL law requires a parent to ride with their teenager when he or she drives. By driving with an adult and following a specific set of rules, the number of crashes involving teens has gone down by more than 50% in the last 10 years.



4 Steps to Getting a Driver's License

1 Get a Learner's Permit. To get a Learner's Permit, your child must pass a state-approved driver education class. Once they do, they will get what is called a "Blue Certificate." Then you must go with them and they must:

- Take the "Blue Certificate," an original birth certificate, passport or immigration card, and Social Security card to a Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office and apply for a Learner's Permit
- Pass an eye exam
- Pay a \$40 application fee

You (the parent) must sign their license application. Once the application is approved, their picture will be taken and they will receive a Learner's Permit. Please note: It will *look* just like a regular driver's license; however, it is only a Learner's Permit for the first year.



2 Supervised Driving. For the first 6 months of driving, an adult must ride with the teen any time he or she is driving. The adult must be at least 25 years old and have had their license for at least 5 years. Your teen must drive at least 50 hours in those 6 months, including 10 hours at night. They must also keep a record of all their driving hours.

3 Unsupervised Driving. For the second 6 months, they can only drive unsupervised from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. To drive at night from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m., they must once again have an adult with them (except when going to or from church, work and some school activities).

4 Regular Driver's License. When your teen has been driving for exactly 1 year with no suspensions (see section called Following the Rules), his or her Learner's Permit will automatically become a regular driver's license. They do not need to return to a DMV office for a new license. Any amount of time their permit is suspended or revoked must be made up and will be added to the end of their permit time.

Your child must be at least 16 years old to begin the GDL program and at least 17 years old to obtain a regular driver's license.

Following the Rules

If your child gets caught violating any rules, his or her Learner's Permit can be suspended or revoked and it will take longer to get their official driver's license.

Rules

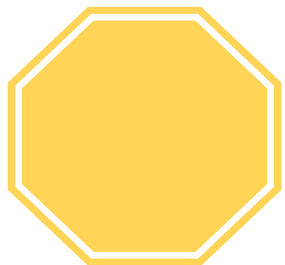
- Your teen must always carry his or her Learner's Permit when driving a vehicle.
- The driving supervisor (sponsor) must be either the teen's parent/guardian or a licensed driver at least 25 years old who has held a Class D license for a minimum of 5 years.
- The driving supervisor **must sit in the front passenger seat** and is the only one allowed to sit there.
- Your teen may only carry one other non-family member, in addition to his or her supervisor, as a passenger in the car during the first year. "Family member" means only parents, brothers or sisters.
- The driver and all passengers in the car must wear seat belts.
- The teen driver is not allowed to use a cell phone to talk or text unless they are calling 911 to report an emergency.





Fines, Tickets, and License Suspension

- Teens that break the Learner's Permit rules will have their Learner's Permit suspended for 2 months for the first offense and 4 months for each time they break the rules after that. They cannot drive during this time.
- If police stop the teen driver for not wearing a seat belt, he or she will get a ticket and his or her Learner's Permit will be suspended for 2 months.
- Teen drivers will lose their permit for 1 month if caught on the phone while driving.
- Any amount of time your teen's permit is suspended does not count toward completing his or her 12 months of required driving. It means they will have to drive with their Learner's Permit for another 2 months or more before they can get their regular license.



The Responsibility of the Parent/Sponsor

Parents play an important role in the teen driving experience.

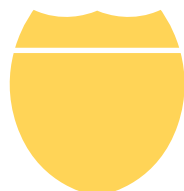
- A sponsor (usually you, the parent) must sign your teen's license application.
- While your teen has a Learner's Permit, the sponsor will decide who else may be a driving supervisor.
- The sponsor can withdraw his or her permission for their teen to drive at any time by going to the DMV. This will result in the cancellation of your teen's license until he or she reaches age 18.
- The sponsor helps develop your teen's driving skills and his or her ability to avoid being in a crash.
- Sponsors are legally liable for all damages your teen causes if he or she crashes. This means you could be sued for thousands of dollars in court. The sponsor may be liable even if your teen is driving someone else's car.





Delaware's Graduated Driver Licensing law is how young drivers become safe drivers.

For more information or to find a Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office near you, visit:
www.teendiving.dmv.de.gov or www.ohs.delaware.gov





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